THE

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

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ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MEDICAL OBSERVATIONS IN EUROPE.

BY FRED. HORNER, JR., M.D.,
Of Virginia.

On board the ill-fated steamer Atlantic, in which the writer crossed the ocean during the late Summer, the opportunity was afforded to study the arrangements and hygiene of this class of mammoth vessels. Familiar as I have been with the accommodations for the sick and wounded in United States naval ships, I am persuaded that the humblest steerage passenger on board of steamers belonging to the "White Star Line" could not be better provided for. The commission of the surgeon in charge, Dr. Howison J. Johnston, signed by Rear Admiral Kerr, chief emigrating officer, Liverpool, empowered Dr. Johnston "to take medical charge of the steamship Atlantic, he being qualified by the Forty-second section of the Passengers' Act for 1855." Special instructions followed, viz., "It is desirable that Surgeons in charge of passenger ships should keep a record of any sickness that occurs on the voyage, together with the treatment and result of the same, a report of which should be sent to this office at the end of the voyage."

Thus the Surgeon, under his commission, would appear to act independently of the Captain.

On these steamers adequate attention appeared to be given to the comfort and health of steerage passengers, whose quarters and food were inspected by a corps of officers regularly every day. All not sick were made to keep on deck, and strict rules to insure cleanliness were carried out. Several serious accidents occurred on board, owing to exposure on deck during the prevalence of rough weather, to persons not accustomed to the sea, suggestive that orders to prevent this class from needless exposure to danger at such a time might be judiciously carried out.

My first visit in London was to St. Thomas' Hospital, situated upon the newly constructed Thames embankment, opposite Westminster Abbey and Lambeth Palace. This hospital, the newest in London, consists of seven distinct buildings, connected by corridors, and with the exception of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, in New York, is doubtless the finest in the world.

A minute description, after that given by Dr. Edward Shippen, U. S. Navy, in the form of "Reports upon certain English Hospitals," in the volume entitled "Contributions to Medical Science," and published by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, of the U. S. Navy, would be almost superfluous. I will, therefore, refer to the curriculum of study at this institution. The Academical session is opened Spring and Autumn of every year. During the late session Mr. Croft delivered the inaugural address. The admission to all the lectures and to practice is £40 for the first year, and the same sum for the second; £20 for the third, and £10 for each succeeding year, or £100 at one payment for unlimited attendance. All students have the opportunity offered them of being engaged in the performance of practical duties in connec-

tion with the Medical, Surgical, Obstetrical, Ophthalmic and Pathological departments of the Hospital; laboratories, under the Physiological and Chemical lecturers are provided, and students availing themselves of them are required to pay for the use of materials a sum of one guinea for the course of practical Physiology, and a guinea and a half for that of Chemistry. Students are charged a fee of one guinea for the use of the books of the library during the whole period of their studies at the Hospital. The Museums of Anatomy, Pathology, Materia Medica, and Chemistry are also open to the student. In the United States such privileges are accorded free of charge.

Among the distinguished Physicians and Surgeons of St. Thomas' are Drs. Murchison, Simon, Sidney Jones and Croft, Mr. Liebriech, the world renowned ophthalmist. Drs. John Hurley and Henry Arnott are the Assistant Surgeons. Clinical instruction and lectures are given regularly by the Physicians, Obstetric Physician and Ophthalmic Surgeon. There are special departments for the Diseases of Women and Children, Diseases of the Eye, Skin, Teeth, and for Vaccination; courses of Practical and Manipulative Surgery are given in accordance with the Army, Navy and India Board of Regulations. In connection with the latter subject may be mentioned the fact that in this country the Surgeon General of the Navy, Dr. Palmer, in his late report, has suggested a similar plan to be carried out at the National Metropolis, in Washington City, for the benefit of candidates for our Naval Medical Corps.

At St. Thomas' special lectures are also given on Mental Diseases by Dr. W. Rheys Williams, Resident Physician at Bethlehem Asylum, and on the Geographical Distribution of Diseases in England and Wales.

Among the topics embraced in the Winter course of lectures may be mentioned, in addition to the usual series, Morbid Anatomy, Physics, Natural Philosophy, and Clinical Midwifery. The Summer course embraces lectures on Botany, Forensic Medicine, Hygiene, Practical and Manipulative Chemistry, Comparative Anatomy, and Practical Physiology.

Prizes and appointments are conferred on candidates, contingent on good conduct and proficiency. The proceeds of a scholarship founded by Sir William Tite, of £1000, tenable for three years, is awarded on proof of continued residence and good conduct, preference being given to the son of a medical man, and more particularly of one who has been educated at St. Thomas' Hospital. The successful student is also required to take the first place in the examination. In addition to such incentives to diligence on the part of the student, three classes of prizes, of the value of £20, £15 and £10 are distributed by the Faculty during the three successive years of the course, and the Cheselden Medal and the Treasurer's Gold Medal are awarded for the best examination in Surgery, Surgical Anatomy, and for good conduct. The Nightingale Fund is applied to the education of women as hospital nurses. On the satisfactory completion of one year's training these nurses are required to enter the service of the Metropolitan or Provincial Hospitals. I had the satisfaction to inspect, in company with Dr. Augustus Wilson, of Cuba, a practical ophthalmic surgeon, the "Sanctum Sanctorum" of Prof. Liebriech, where patients affected with diseases of the eye are examined and operated on. The plan of the apartment was unique; it was constructed with special reference to the admission or exclusion of light, and was provided with instruments of improved pattern.

The "Victoria Ward," where may be seen several hundred little folks, children of every age, was visited with special interest, because of the large number of cases of tuberculosis of the spine which it presented. The theory and practice of our distinguished countryman, Dr. Benj. Lee, were fully confirmed as to the relief, and even cure of this interesting class of sufferers, so ignored, if not neglected, by many of the faculty in this country.

St. Thomas' Hospital enjoys the princely income per annum of £30,000, which it appears is liberally and judiciously used. Provision is made not only for the sick and wounded, but also schools are established for the benefit of the poor in London, in connection with it. From the statement made by Mr. Cline, whose courtesy was so marked, the expense of the medical student annually in London amounts to five hundred dollars, and the time occupied in the acquisition of a complete education is five years.

In concluding this already too extended article the writer may be allowed to commend a sea voyage to Europe to all invalids

who may need escape from overwork, the excitements of modern fashionable life, and require the sedative influences of the motion of a sailing vessel or ocean steamer. Persons affected with functional disorder of the heart may confidently expect to be benefited.

Medical Societies.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROCK RIVER (WIS.) MEDICAL SOCIETY.

According to adjournment, the Society met November 1st., the President, Dr. Rogers, in the chair.

After the transaction of the usual local business, and the admission of a new member, Dr. Marston read the report of an

Obstetrical Case.

In the after treatment of this case large doses of tr. cantharides played a conspicuous part.

This gave rise to an animated discussion concerning the local action of cantharides on mucous membranes, the author and Dr. Senn holding that their action in the form of tincture is merely stimulating, not at all tending to produce inflammation, "Perfectly harmless as so much whisky," as Dr. Marston said, while the other gentlemen were of the opinion that tr. cantharides used in such large and repeated doses as thirty drops every two hours, in a patient who is throwing up "black vomit," acts as an irritant to the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane.

In order to save time, and profit by the discussion, it was moved and seconded that the further consideration of the local action of cantharides, as well as the nature of "black vomit," be postponed until the next meeting. Carried.

Pneumonia

Being the subject for discussion to-day, Dr. Marston opened it with an eloquent consideration of the pathology and treatment of this disease. In pathology he offered nothing new from what we find laid down in the books.

In *treatment* he is for an antiphlogistic regimen in medicine, as well as in diet. However, only in the beginning of the attack; afterwards he supports and even stimulates the patient. He would sometimes employ blood-letting, however, only when dyspnœa was great. When hepatization of the inflamed lung has taken place he puts a corn-meal poultice over the chest, and keeps it there until the air is perceived permeating the diseased lung.

Dr. Lueck stated that experience has convinced him that our fathers were right in teaching that pneumonia may be arrested by a full bleeding, if the remedy be applied within forty-eight hours of the attack. Just as Dr. Wood (Practice, vol. 2, p. 34), he has often seen inflammation of the lungs checked in its first stage in the adult by a full venesection, and in children by large doses of tartar emetic. During the progress of this disease his treatment is that laid down in the text-books. However, after hepatization has taken place, he has seen good effects from the employment of iodide of potassium.

Dr. Senn, in pneumonia, adopts altogether Niemeyer's views and treatment, even the cold applications to the chest. A full account of these views and treatment will be found in Niemeyer's Pathologie und Therapie Band I. Seite, 205, etc.

Dr. Loehr has obtained good results from the use of digitalis in the congestive stage of pneumonia. Later he makes use of expectorants.

Dr. Keller uses first antimonial preparations with nitre, afterwards expectorants, especially senega.

Dr. Hunt would, among other remedies, call special attention to the use of ipecac, in the form of Dover's powder. It is above all indicated in the hacking cough which characterizes some cases.

Dr. Rogers remarked, that in the beginning of his practice, he has been a firm believer in the bleeding-treatment of pneumonia, but since he has had patients die, just because they were bled, he has changed his opinion, and never employs the lancet in this complaint. He generally relies, in the first stage of pneumonia, on veratrum viride; afterwards his treatment does not differ from that of the books.

Dr. Senn, Chairman of Committee on subject for discussion at the next meeting, reported as such: "Pathology and Treatment of Ulcers." Adopted.

Society adjourned to meet again at Theresa, on first Friday in January, 1873.

A. W. Lueck, Secretary.

Mayville, Wis.

DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY, MERCER COUNTY, N. J.,

The Society met at Trenton, May 6th.

Dr. J. B. Coleman read an essay on the metamorphosis of structure in its relation to the action of the kidneys.

Dr. Green read an essay on the expediency of making medicinal preparations palatable and attractive.

Drs. Phillips and Deshler were appointed Essayists for the next session.

Dr. Waldeburg Coleman read a case of interest.

The following officers were then elected:

President—Dr. C. Shepherd.

Vice-President—Dr. John Woolverton.

Secretary—Dr. J. B. James.

Treasurer—Dr. Bodine.

District Reporter—Dr. Bodine.

Delegates to the State Medical Society—Drs. J. Ribble, Bodine, Deshler, Phillips, and Warman.

The Society then adjourned after a profitable meeting.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

PERISCOPE.

Symptoms and Treatment of Gall Stones.

The *London Medical Record* reports the views of Dr. C. KÖNIG, of Berlin, on this topic. He draws attention to the well-known symptoms sometimes found. Direct palpation of the gall-bladder may lead to their detection, and rarely a peculiar rubbing sound, of one stone rubbing on another, may be recognized by auscultation of the gall-bladder. Neither pulse nor temperature are pathognomonic; the latter may be 37.5° to 40.5° C. =99.5° to 104.9° F. Vomiting and reflex cramps are generally present. Jaundice, absent at first, is always met with at last. The colic may last for a few minutes or for many days; in the latter case there are remissions; sometimes the pains cease suddenly; more often even recovery is gradual. If no gall-stones be found in the stools, they may have slipped back into the gall-bladder. The author draws attention to the various ways in which they may prove fatal. In spite of all, the prognosis, in the majority of the cases, is not so unfavorable; most of them end happily.

The object of our therapeutics must be to remove or dissolve existing concretions, and to remedy the colic and other complications or sequelæ. Alkalies and alkaline mineral waters, Karlsbad, Marienbad, Kissingen, and Vichy, are best for this, and often bring away colossal numbers. But the rationale of their action is not known.

Durande's [illegible] has great repute. Three parts of sulphuric ether and two parts of oil of turpentine are mixed, and it is so arranged that the patient takes two grammes (about half a drachm) of the mixture every morning, and gradually takes more and more till finally 500 grammes (about 16 oz.) have been taken. However, the results are variable, and it is often badly borne. Frerichs does not recommend it, on account of frequent failures. Opiates may be given freely, twelve drops of simple tincture of opium hourly, or about one-fifth of a grain of hydrochlorate of morphia; or it may be given in subcutaneous injections, or in enemata. Inhalation of chloroform, belladonna, and the like, warm cataplasms on the abdomen, and long continued warm baths, or when the hepatic region is very tender, a number of leeches applied to the right hypochondrium, relieve greatly in some cases. Ice, seltzer water, and effervescing draughts may be taken. If there be collapse, wine, ether, musk, and other analeptics must be used. He does not advise emetics, but mild purgatives, castor oil, Friedrichshall bitter water, infusion of Senna, and calomel. Perforations, fistulæ, and abscesses must be treated surgically.

Two illustrative cases are appended. One is that of a woman, aged thirty-nine, with cancer of the gall-bladder. A gall-stone of the size of a pigeon's egg was found in the ductus choledochus, immediately behind the union of the two ducts. The second is that of a woman aged twenty-six, with symptoms of gall-stone, who recovered. No stone was found in her case, but there was a tumor, tender and painful, in the region of the gall-bladder.

On Chloral in Midwifery.

The *London Medical Record* quotes various recent writers on this subject. M. DUJARDIN BEAUMETZ thinks it can be given during longer periods than chloroform without causing dangerous symptoms, a condition indispensable when we wish not only to combat a convulsive attack, as in eclampsia, but still more to prevent its return.

Dr. F. Hesse discusses its physiological action. Liebreich has shown that chloral cannot exist in an alkaline solution, but becomes resolved into chloroform and formic acid when absorbed into the blood, thus setting free small quantities of chloroform, without causing, however, the stage of excitement and irritation that this latter produces when inhaled. Chloral has the advantage over opium of not disturbing the digestion, not producing constipation or nausea, vertigo, etc. Chloral is especially useful in counteracting the spasmodic pains of labor, and also in eclampsia. He cites several cases showing its utility in the former. After sketching the etiology of eclampsia, with the rival views of Litzmann and Frerichs, who regard it as a consequence of blood-poisoning from uræmia; and those of Traube and Rosenstein, who consider it to be an acute œdema with consecutive anæmia and cerebral disturbance, he quotes Martin's views in support of the action of chloral as a powerful diaphoretic. Illustrative cases are given.

E. Lambert, of Paris, concludes that chloral is an agent of great value in diminishing the pains of labor. It can produce absolute unconsciousness, even during the period of expulsion, in the same way as chloroform. It has the great advantage over this of allowing the longer continuance of anæsthesia. It is demonstrated that a labor can thus be conducted from the beginning to the end, without consciousness. Chloral and chloroform may be given together. Chloral augments the energy of the uterine contractions, in suspending the reflex actions which tend to counteract the excitability of the organic centres. The con-

tractions under the influence of anæsthesia are shorter and more powerful than those which are accompanied by pain. It will probably be found that under the influence of chloral labor is completed more rapidly. He concludes that chloral administered in sufficient doses, two to three drachms, is an excellent means of opposing puerperal eclampsia, and can prevent it in women predisposed to it. Many women, especially those of a nervous temperament, during labor have very painful or too frequent uterine contractions, are very agitated, and can get no repose, fatiguing themselves unnecessarily, and wasting their strength before the third stage sets in. In ten or twelve cases in which Lambert employed chloral in thirty to sixty grain doses, it acted very beneficially; the pain diminished in intensity and frequency; during the intervals the patients were calm and even slept, and labor became normal. The uterine contractions, instead of losing their force or becoming indolent, increased in intensity, and so lessened the duration of labor. The best mode of giving the chloral is to administer fifteen grains every quarter of an hour, until the desired effect is obtained. Some patients require as much as three drachms. The effects of chloral continue after parturition, and so secure a favorable repose. Given in excess, it excites the cerebro-spinal system, and may provoke delirium; but its effects are always transitory and not dangerous.

Liquefied Carbonic Acid Gas.

We learn from the *Journal of Applied Chemistry* that a French chemist, named Cailletet, has made some interesting investigations with liquefied carbonic acid. The liquid acid is colorless, very mobile, and a non-conductor of electricity. Several attempts were made to determine the co-efficient of compression, but no constant quantity was obtained, which no doubt resulted from the admixture of a small quantity of some uncondensable gas. The liquefied gas does not dissolve common salt, Glauber's salt, or chloride of calcium; in contact with carbonate of potassium it converts it into the bicarbonate, which is not dissolved in the unabsorbed liquid acid. Carbonate of lime, whether in the form of calc spar or of dried chalk, is not attacked by the acid, even when subjected to a pressure of between 40 and 130 atmospheres for an hour. It does not dissolve sulphur or phosphorus; iodine is slightly soluble in it, giving it a weak violet color. Petroleum dissolves five or six volumes of the liquid acid; bisulphide of carbon only a little of it; sulphuric ether absorbs a large quantity, perhaps any desired amount; the fatty oils dissolve but little; soap turns white on the surface, the fatty acids being set free. Stearine and paraffine are insoluble in liquefied carbonic acid gas; sodium amalgam does not act upon it; sodium becomes covered with a very thin layer of bicarbonate in the course of an hour.

Treatment of Cicatrices.

In the *St. Thomas' Hospital Reports* of this year one of the surgeons, Mr. MASON, describes an operation for the treatment of cicatrices after burns. He practiced it in three cases with such success as to justify its repetition. In principle it is similar to the operation usually practiced for closing fissures of the hard palate, the uranoplastic operation of Langenbeck; it resembles, too, Dieffenbach's urethroplastic operation, or *autoplastie par glissement* of the French.

The operation consists in freely dividing the cicatrix at its centre from side to side, the incision reaching to the healthy skin at each extremity. The cicatrix should be freely divided, not cut out, incised but not excised. The upper and lower portions of the cicatrix are then thoroughly separated from the subjacent tissues, and the tough areolar tissue in the wound is notched with the knife as deeply as the neighboring vessels will permit, thus leaving an open wound. To cover this, two bridge-like flaps of healthy integument at each side of the cicatrix are raised and carried to the centre of the wound, their concavities meeting as convexities in the middle line. The indications fulfilled by this operation are "firstly, the wound is occupied by healthy elastic and extensible skin, and secondly, the skin being taken in the form of a bridge, is necessarily attached at each extremity, so that its vascularity is almost to a certainty maintained, at least the chance of its sloughing is reduced to a minimum. Moreover, its vitality is still further insured by its perfect adaptation to the subjacent raw surface."

REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

NOTES ON CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

——A beautifully executed colored engraving of the celebrated Caucasian, George Constantin, is published in the newly issued volume of Hebra's *Atlas der Hautkrankheiten*. The Turkish shawl representations, in blue and red, of the lions, tigers, elephants, storks, and other animals and subjects with which the man's skin is covered, make a very curious picture.

——The beautiful collection of books (ancient and modern) belonging to the late Dr. Daremberg, has been purchased by the Minister of Public Instruction, and presented to the Library of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.

——MM. ROBIN and LITTRÉ have laid the new edition of their *Dictionary of Medical Terms* before the Académie des Sciences.

——The Publisher and Proprietors of the *Michigan University Medical Journal* announce that they have decided to discontinue it at the close of Volume 3 (April 1st, 1873). All subscribers that have paid in advance will have their money refunded.

BOOK NOTICES.

The Passions in their Relations to Health and Diseases. Translated from the French of Dr. H. BOURGEOIS, etc. By HOWARD F. DAMON, A. M., M. D. Boston: James Campbell, 1873. 1 vol., 12mo, cloth, pp. 201. Price $1.25. For sale by Lindsay & Blakiston.

There is no doubt a vast amount of suffering, social and physical, which finds its origin in the sexual impulses. But Dr. BOURGEOIS has discussed his subject, one might suppose, from observing dissolute Paris alone, and the most corrupt phase of its society under the Second Empire. The passions which he treats about are the sexual passions only, and he divides his work, therefore, into two parts, one upon Love, the other upon Libertinism. The former is engaged with the nature of love, the advantages of marriage, duties of husband and wife, etc. The style is much that rendered so familiar by the works of Michelet, but the matter is more medical. Numerous anecdotes and illustrations are interspersed, few of them original or new.

The second part points to libertinism and its consequences; not only social libertinism, but masturbation, conjugal Onanism, etc., all in the florid, overdrawn colors which writers for the public usually assume on these matters. How absurd to say, for example, that the children of those parents who seek to limit their families "are in general, feeble, scrofulous and even monstrous" (p. 165). Precisely the reverse is well known to be the case. How untrue the statement (p. 175) that in the unanimous opinions of physicians masturbation "is the most pernicious kind of debauchery, on account of its frightful results." This is the language of the lowest books of spermatorrhœal quacks, and utterly unscientific. The absence of scientific knowledge is, however, frequently manifest. No physician of any culture would now attribute the symptoms and fatal results of Martin's case of a girl suddenly given to self-abuse (pp. 181–2) to the habit, but to acute cerebral or cerebellar disease.

Indeed, the more we have read of the work, the less has it seemed to be the production of a man capable of examining a really vital branch of public and private hygiene in a correct manner.

American Association for the Cure of Inebriates. Proceedings of the Third Meeting, October, 1872. Published by order of the Association, Albany, 1873.

Inebriate asylums have now had a trial of several years under favorable auspices. Are they successful? In a measure, yes; to the extent anticipated, we judge from this pamphlet, no. There is a material, a lamentable difference of opinion manifest. The Committee on Legislation say (p. 81): "Statistics prove that from 38⅓ to 40 per centum of the persons who have been thus treated [in reformatory institutions] have been *permanently cured.*" (The italics are in the original.) This looks well. But on page 116 we find Dr. P. De Marmon saying: "I do not believe that one single case of confirmed chronic alcoholism has ever been cured in any of them." On page 57, Dr. R. P. Harris writes of his inmates, "I have only to say that the main treatment for the cure of drunkenness must commence after my special care is ended."

A special committee report on "Principles." It seems that the public thought the Association assumed too much on itself, and also regarded drunkenness too much as a disease. We shared this latter view. But if the following is one of the principles advocated (as given on page 79), we ask an explanation of the explanation: "This Association * * do not intend to deny the impropriety (*sic*) of prohibitory laws, or of restrictive legislation, or of temperance associations"! The public will think the Association wants patients, unless this is corrected in time.

There is much of sound advice in the book, and of salutary warning. The following opinion of Dr. Harris, of this city, deserves attention (page 56): "I am satisfied, from what I have seen of latter years, that what is sold in common drinking saloons as *whisky*, has much less tendency to produce delirium tremens than the spirit of rye dealt out before the war; and when it is produced it is of a type which more readily yields to treatment." Interesting, if correct.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 17, 1873.

S. W. BUTLER, M. D., D. G. BRINTON, M. D., Editors.

☞ Medical Societies and Clinical Reports, Notes and Observations, Foreign and Domestic Correspondence, News, etc., etc., of general medical interest, are respectfully solicited.

Articles of special importance, such especially as require original experimental research, analysis, or observation, will be liberally paid for.

☞ To insure publication, articles must be *practical*, *brief* as possible to do justice to the subject, and *carefully prepared*, so as to require little revision.

☞ Subscribers are requested to forward to us copies of newspapers containing reports of Medical Society meetings, or other items of special medical interest.

We particularly value the practical experience of country practitioners, many of whom possess a fund of information that rightfully belongs to the profession.

The Proprietor and Editors disclaim all responsibility for statements made over the names of correspondents.

IS EDUCATION A DRAWBACK TO SUCCESS?

In the endeavors earnestly made by a small minority of medical men these past ten or twenty years to elevate the standard of education in the profession, they have been, on the whole, worsted. Let us not be understood to say that the medical part of education has been thrown backward, but that the standard of general education in the profession is lower. This we believe from observation and from the public demonstrations against the necessity of classical and general learning to a professional man.

Some months since we adverted, and not in terms of commendation, to the address of the President of the American Medical Association, in which that officer brought forward a general apology for ignorance, or, at any rate, a decided defence of it.

That preliminary mental training is *essential* to professional success, nobody maintains. That it very greatly insures it, no one should deny. Trained powers of mind, especially in mathematical and classical studies, enable the student to master the phraseology of a science and to arrange lucidly its facts in his memory with far more facility than can the youth sparely furnished with a common school education.

It is easy to quote single extraordinary exceptions to this general rule. We notice that Mr. Henry Hancock, President of the London College of Surgeons, delivered the Biennial Hunterian Oration on February 14th, and took occasion to severely criticise the high demands made for a classical education of candidates for the medical profession. John Hunter himself cared little for education of this class, never passed an examination in his life, but was endowed with extraordinarily acute powers of observation, and the true genius of a discoverer. Mr. Hancock brought forward an immense array of instances, in all professions, of men whose genius was special, but who had not had the inclination, or, perhaps, had not the opportunity of acquiring a high-class general education, and yet who attained the highest positions, and the most brilliant honors in the works to which they devoted themselves. Passing over the notable names in literature and art which would occur to any one, there was still left a legion of mighty names for the lecturer to mention: Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor for twenty-five years, proudly showing his son the shop at Canterbury where the great lawyer's father shaved for a penny; Sir Wm. Herschell, late Astronomer Royal, playing the hautboy in the Durham Militia; Hugh Miller, Faraday, George Stephenson, and a host of others, all prove that it may be possible to trust too implicitly in the force of early mental training.

This we grant, all of it, and unreservedly. But these great minds are exceptional. They lorded it over their fellows in spite, not in consequence of this severe drawback which they themselves, as a rule, regretted openly. Self-made men there are in numbers, in our profession, as well as elsewhere, and we honor them, but they have struggled with difficulties which often embittered years of life.

Their examples are no defence of igno-

rance; still less of indolence. The young man who thinks because they have succeeded in professional paths without early study, he can relax his efforts, *will fail.* Let him read what Prof. Tyndall said this winter, describing his student life at Marback. He spent a winter there, rising never later than six. But he adds:—

"For a good portion of the time I rose an hour and a half earlier than this, working by lamp-light at the differential calculus when the world was slumbering around me. And I risked this breach in my pursuits, and this expenditure of time and money, not because I had any definite prospect of material profit in view, but because I thought the cultivation of the intellect important; because, moreover, I loved my work, and entertained the sure and certain hope that, armed with knowledge, one can successfully fight one's way through the world."

These are golden truths, and too much knowledge no one can have. It will not disqualify him, although Mr. Hancock seemed to think so. He said, "under the old regulations many estimable men, not too refined or highly educated scholastically, I admit, but skillful and well informed professionally, were content to settle down and pass their lives among the poor, accommodating themselves to their peculiarities, and ministering to their wants. These men are no longer allowed to enter our profession; and, inasmuch as the higher the education the greater the refinement of taste and habits, it is much to be feared that men who have been forced through the anxiety and expense attending these examinations will hardly be inclined to settle down with their wives and children in the squalid purlieus of large cities."

There is no danger that the sentiments of sympathy and duty, of love of labor and Christian charity will be diminished by intellectual riches. The country doctor who can solace himself amid the toils and drudgery of his practice by reading a play of Sophocles or an ode of Horace will return to the struggle refreshed and strengthened.

Notes and Comments.

Carbolic Acid in Canine Skin Diseases.

In his late work on *Veterinary Surgery*, Prof. Williams records the following singular observations:—

"Canine skin diseases require to be treated with very great care; remedies that cause a great amount of constitutional disturbance in the dog have no such effect when applied to other animals; for example, carbolic acid, although carefully prepared and diluted, and as carefully applied, produces in some instances so much depression as to cause death in a few hours, by a gradual failure of the heart's action (asthenia); in others, where the first depressing effects of the remedy have been overcome by stimulants, warmth, or electricity, the animal has fallen into a state of marasmus, with sunken eyes, fœtor of the breath, formation of sordes on the teeth, 'tarry' fæces, total loss of appetite, and death in six to twelve days. For these reasons I have discontinued the carbolic acid in dog cases, although it is an excellent local remedy. It might be supposed that these toxic effects result from the dog licking himself, thus introducing the acid into the stomach. I held this opinion at first, but further observation of cases where such precautions were taken as to render the licking of the poison an impossibility, has convinced me that it is absorbed into the system through the skin; that it has a peculiar effect upon the dog, and consequently is a dangerous remedy. For similar reasons the mercurial ointment is unsafe."

For the dog the following is the safest and best cutaneous stimulant:—

Unguentum sulpho-alkalinum.

℞. Sulph. sublim., ʒj.
Potass. carb., ʒij.
Adipis, ʒj. M.

Vital Statistics of Physicians.

From the researches of Dr. Beaugrand, of Paris, it appears that out of 2700 medical men, 178 died in 1847, the year of the great epidemic of typhus, about 1 in 15, and that 114 succumbed to typhus fever. Excluding the exceptional year of 1847, we find that in the four preceding years 76 medical men

died of typhus, out of a total of 252 deaths from various causes, that is, at the rate of 1 in 3.8; while the mortality from typhus, compared with that from all other causes, in the general population, was 1 in 10.5; figures which clearly show the great risk to life encountered by medical men during their attendance on typhus patients.

Yellow fever appears to be a less transmissible disease than typhus; for, during the terrible epidemic of this disease at Lisbon, in 1857, only two physicians and twelve surgeons fell victims to it.

In 1832, during an epidemic of cholera, out of 1200 medical men then practicing in Paris, 30 died, about 1 in 40, or 2.5 per cent., while the general mortality was 1 in 45 inhabitants, or 2.2 per cent. If we keep to certain ages, the death-rate of medical men from cholera will appear greater. It was 2.7 between the ages of 30 and 60, and 6.37 above 60 years of age.

Dr. Beaugrand gives us a morsel of comfort by saying that, notwithstanding the various anxieties which beset the career of medical men, mental alienation is rare among them; and he cites, in support of this statement, the following table from the work of Parchappe:—

Artists	9.60	per cent.
Lawyers	8.41	do
Clergymen	4.15	do
Medical men	3.85	do

Acorn Coffee in Diarrhœa.

A German physician, Dr. Turk, says that after considerable experience, he and many of his colleagues have arrived at the conclusion that, in cases of chronic catarrh of the bowels, drugs seldom produce the desired effect. A series of careful observations, however, have shown him that roasted acorns, prepared as coffee, with a few beans of the real article, form the best dietetic, and at the same time medicinal remedy. Often when nitrate of silver, tannin, Dover's powder, etc., have proved useless, the simple acorn-coffee (boiled, in cases of specially profuse diarrhœa, with from one to three grains of tannin, and in meteorism or sickness, with the addition of a piece of orange-peel to the decoction) has, from the first, lessened the stools and improved their quality, and very shortly restored appetite and nutrition. At the same time the children become not fat, but healthy. The acorn-coffee is more efficacious than alkalies, preparations of lime, tonics (Peruvian bark and extract) and carminatives. Moreover, the children drink it readily, without becoming tired, and the painful, formal, and frequent administration of medicine is avoided.

Testimony of Sir Henry Thompson.

Sir. Henry Thompson, the eminent surgeon, in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, expresses the conviction that the use of alcoholic beverages is the greatest cause of evil from which the country suffers. "I do not mean by this," he explains, "that extreme indulgence which produces drunkenness. The habitual use of fermented liquors to an extent far short of what is necessary to produce that condition, and such as is quite common in all ranks of society, injures the body and diminishes the mental power to an extent which I think few people are aware of. Such, at all events, is the result of my observation during more than twenty years of professional life devoted to hospital practice, and to private practice in every rank above it. Thus I have no hesitation in attributing a very large proportion of some of the most painful and dangerous maladies which come under my notice, as well as those which every medical man has to treat, to the ordinary and daily use of fermented drink taken in the quantity which is conventionally deemed moderate."

Definition of Electricity.

The present definition of Electricity is as follows:—Electricity is a force or mode of motion which may be communicated to particles of matter capable of receiving such motion. Its waves are of such a nature that, when interrupted by a medium which opposes their progress, but which would be able to transmit the undulations entirely if it were large enough, they are converted into heat waves, accompanied by luminous vibrations. If the motion be interrupted by a decomposable fluid, the chemical affinity of the component parts of the fluid is destroyed, and they are conveyed in opposite directions. At right angles to the direction of motion of the electric force the magnetic force always exists, and its amount and quality (boreal or austral) has direct relation respectively to the amount of the electric force, and to the direction in which it is traveling. Polarization, or that property by which there appears to be opposite qualities in different

parts of the same body or in distant bodies, such as the opposite charges of a Leyden jar, or the opposite electrical condition of the metallic plates respectively at the opposite extremities of a galvanic battery, is the consequence of the electrical waves occurring in definite planes. Further, it appears that electrical wave motion confined to a given space, as in an insulated but charged conductor, for instance, tends to excite the same kind of wave motion in the opposite direction in a neighboring conductor, and thus to produce the phenomena of electrical induction. In other words, one kind of electric polarity cannot be produced without the production also of the other kind, either in another part of the same body, or in distant bodies.

Relation of Epilepsy to the Weather.

There seems, after all, some slight ground for the ancient belief that the epileptic is a *lunatic* in the etymological sense of that term. Mr. CRALLAN, of the Sussex, England, Asylum, has found upon examination of two hundred and twelve accessions of fits, that, with five exceptions, they were preceded or accompanied by considerable alteration in atmospheric pressure or solar radiation, or both. And here, he thinks, is the clue sought; for it appears from his records that, when a great fall or a great rise of the barometer, or a great rise or fall of solar radiation, occurs, *i.e.*, a decided change from bright to dull weather, or the opposite, or when both atmospheric pressure and solar radiation are much disturbed, an accession of fits invariably occurs. He is led, therefore, to the inference that it is, after all, not the moon which directly affects the epileptic patients, but the change of the weather; and that it is the coincidence which not unfrequently occurs, of a change of weather with a change of moon, which has led the popular mind into the notion of the moon affecting both the weather and the epileptics.

Again, Mr. Crallan says that there were no cases of *maniacal* relapses to any marked extent which were not immediately preceded by some marked change of atmospheric pressure, solar radiation, or both. With regard to *melancholia*, he found that, with one single exception, the instances of augmented melancholic relapses occurred after considerable disturbance of atmospheric pressure and solar radiation, either in the same or in the opposite direction. He has no doubt left on his mind of the fact that such disturbances are always accompanied by, if not due to, *some alteration in the electricity*. He found that *ten* of these relapses occurred during thunder storms or heavy gales; but he had no means of judging how far similar conditions might have existed at other times, when these unmistakable manifestations of disturbance were too far off to be heard or seen, but not too distant to affect the health or to produce mental irritation or depression.

The Hereditary Supracondyloid Process in Man.

Dr. STRUTHERS, of Aberdeen, contributes a paper to the *Lancet* "On Hereditary Supracondyloid Process in Man." This structure, the investigation of which has been entirely neglected in England, while for some years past it has been carefully dissected at St. Petersburg in the dead body, and diagnosed on the living subject in Scotland, was found by Dr. Struthers in the father of a family, in one arm, and in no fewer than four out of his seven children. Of the latter three had this outgrowth on one side only, and that the same as in the father, the left; while in the fourth, a son, it occurred on both sides, and in a greater degree of development; that, however, on the left still predominating in size.

Professor Gruber, of St. Petersburg, has long ago pointed out (*Bulletins de l'Académie des Sciences de St. Petersburg*, tome xx, p. 455) what a stumbling-block this process may prove to the surgeon ignorant of its possible existence; and Professors Turner and Struthers, the former in the *Journal of Anatomy* (2d series, vol. v, p. 434), and the latter anatomist at the last meeting of the British Association, have drawn attention to the fact that its occurrence in man is much more frequent than had hitherto been suspected.

The Belgian Medical Association on Drunkenness.

Dr. DESQUIN, of Antwerp, has submitted an able report to the Medical Association of Belgium on the increase of drunkenness in that country. Dr. D. is president of the commission appointed to investigate the subject. Having pointed out the gravity of the disease, its extent and causes, the commission then attempts the solution of the

problem submitted to it, "*la therapeutique*," "the means for opposing the increasing abuse of alcoholic liquors." First, the government is urged to take prompt action, so as to insure the purity of the liquors purchased by the working classes. Secondly, it is suggested that the Association should use its influence with the government and with the communal authorities to publish, in French and Flemish, and distribute profusely, a pamphlet of a popular and scientific character, upon the properties of the different kinds of liquors, and the sad consequences of drunkenness. Thirdly, the action of the legislature is invoked in favor of education in matters relating to health and temperance, and in aid of temperance, sanitary, and co-operative societies. The government is urged to raise the duties on spirits as high as may be safe, and to diminish those on beer, tea, coffee, etc. Fourthly, the local authorities are advised to adopt and enforce very strict police regulations; to prevent the sale of liquors in groceries, "where women often go to drink," and in cigar shops; to punish those who sell drink to children and to drunken persons; to keep all taverns under strict surveillance, etc.

Colorless Tincture of Iodine.

We have been requested to republish the formula we gave for this preparation:—

℞. Tincture of iodine,
Pure glycerine, aa ℥j.
Sulphite of soda, ℈j.

Rub the salt to a powder in a small mortar, and add the glycerine gradually; then pour in the tincture of iodine, and triturate gently until a solution is effected, and the mixture assumes an amber color. It is asserted that the properties of iodine are increased by the addition of the sulphite of soda, and that the glycerine enhances the value and convenience of the preparation for local application.

Statistics of Cataracts.

Dr. Little, surgeon to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, has, in a valuable (because honest), communication to the January number of the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, set other writers the example. He classifies the results of 200 cases of Graefe's extraction as follows:—

Of the 200 eyes, 115 were those of patients over 60 years of age, and of these 18 suffered from subsequent iritis; two from suppuration of the eye-ball; two from iridochoroiditis; and one from corneal sloughing. In other words, one-fifth of the whole number of cases in old patients suffered subsequent serious inflammation.

Of fifty-six cases which presented some constitutional delicacy, ten, or nearly one-fifth, suffered subsequent iritis.

Of the entire 200 eyes, twenty-seven suffered iritis, and seven were totally lost from destructive inflammation. Seventeen required secondary operations for capsular opacity, and in seven secondary hemorrhages took place.

Thus it appears that the recovery of nearly one-third of the whole number of cases was interrupted by grave sequelæ of the operation. We omit count of twenty-two cases in which vitreous was lost (in nine cases in advance of the lens), twenty in which collapse of cornea or eyeball occurred, and twenty in which the spoon was necessary to remove the lens, because we presume that most of these accidents have been already counted in the unsuccessful cases noted above.

The ultimate result of these 200 cases, Dr. Little gives as 3·5 per cent. of loss; 7·5 per cent. imperfect; 89·0 per cent. perfect.

Olive Oil Trade of Nice.

At Nice, the olive tree is planted over an extent of 15,000 acres, and the produce in a fairly good year is from 180,000 to 200,000 gallons. There are many varieties of the olive cultivated in this neighborhood, each having some peculiar quality. The olives are collected from the month of December, and those which ripen earliest are the best. The collection of the fruit is made by beating the trees, but this is a very imperfect mode of gathering, as the olives are bruised and the oil loses in quality, being never so good as in districts where the olives are picked from the trees by hand. The best oil is made from the fruit immediately after being taken from the tree, but this is only practicable where the amount of a day or two's gathering is large. The analysis of the best oil produced in the district of Nice is as follows:—carbon, 77·21; hydrogen, 13·36; oxygen, 9·43. There are very nearly 800,000 olive trees in the country of Nice, and it is estimated that each tree will give in a good year from 50 to 150 kilogrammes of olives, according to size. The harvest, however, is extremely uncertain.

Brain-work and Brain-worry.

The Boston *Medical and Surgical Journal* says:—From this text has proceeded much profitable hygienic discourse, of late, in some foreign journals. The conclusion reached is this:—brain-work is conducive to health and longevity, while brain-worry causes disease and shortens life. The truth of the statement, and its application to what we see around us, is evident enough; yet it is well that such subjects should be continually discussed. Intellectual labor, although severe, like that performed by the judges of our highest courts, or by scholars and persons devoted to literary pursuits, if unmixed with excitement, and followed with regularity, is seen to promote bodily health and long life. On the other hand, mental cares, attended with suppressed emotions, and occupations which from their nature are subject to great vicissitudes of fortune and constant anxiety, break down the lives of the strongest. Every one has seen a class of men whose early mental training was deficient, and to whom the writing of memoranda was irksome, engaged in middle life in great undertakings, and taxing the memory with a mass of complicated business accounts, simply because they could more easily remember than write. Their power of memory for a certain kind of facts is often truly astonishing, but the strain is at last too much, and they die before their time. The brain-worry of our school children might furnish useful illustrations of the truth of the same general proposition, but we forbear.

Treatment of Bile Stones.

An Italian physician, Dr. SCHIFF, says that biliary calculi are generally produced, not in consequence of an excessive formation of cholesterine, but because there is a deficiency of its solvents in the bile, the cholinates and cholates of soda and potash. He suggests the administration of these salts in cases of gall-stone; not to remove the cholesterine already deposited, which he does not think possible, but to hold it in solution and prevent further deposit. It has been proved that bile, or a solution of biliary salts, taken into the stomach or intestine, is conveyed to the liver, and that the bile discharged is richer and more dense. He advises that the cholinate of soda should be given in doses of 7½ grains twice a day, until symptoms of disturbance of digestion or of circulation are noticed. Saturation of the syestem with the medicine is indicated by irregularity of the pulse, which becomes very slow during rest, and is sensibly accelerated by movement of the body or by slight excitement. When this occurs the medicine should not be interrupted, but the dose must be diminished. No good effect is to be expected unless the remedy be continuously administered for some time.

Another Sign of Degeneration.

Says the *Chemist and Druggist*:—There is bad news for the dentists, and, indeed, for the whole human race. In the last volume of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*, Mr. Coleman points out "the degeneracy of human teeth," ascribes it to "the part played by the knife and fork as substitutes for the teeth," and pleasantly suggests that "one of the modes" by which mankind will become extinct, will be "by the ultimate development of an edentulous race, incapable of mastication, and therefore of adequate nutrition." Well, we will not cry even over this misfortune; "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." When that day comes, we can live on "pap," or by suction, not to speak of Liebig's food. Meanwhile, the teeth will probably last our day and generation.

The Process of Embalming.

The Brunetti process for the preservation of the dead has recently been published in *La France Médicale*, and it consists of several processes:—

1. The circulatory system is cleared thoroughly out by washing with cold water till it issues quite clear from the body. This may occupy two to five hours.

2. Alcohol is injected so as to abstract as much water as possible. This occupies about a quarter of an hour.

3. Ether is then injected to abstract the fatty matters. This occupies two to ten hours.

4. A strong solution of tannin is then injected. This occupies for imbibition two to ten hours.

5. The body is then dried in a current of warm air passed over heated chloride of calcium. This may occupy two to five hours.

The body is then perfectly preserved and resists decay. The Italians exhibit specimens which are as hard as stone and perfect in form.

Centenarians in the United States.

According to the Census Reports in this country 58 persons in 10,000 reach their hundredth year. Among the native whites, 642 lived to be one hundred or more years old, viz., males 259, females 383. Foreign-born; total 322, males 135, females 187. Colored: total 2537, males 885, females 1652. In every case, the female centenarians outnumbered the male. Tennessee showed 66 (native whites) of both sexes, and North Carolina 59;. the latter State bearing the palm, however, with one centenarian to every 11,400 (native white) inhabitants. New York naturally leads off in foreign-born centenarians, showing 83 against Pennsylvania's 40, though their ratios are nearly the same (1.13,500, 1.13,600). Louisiana shows 263 colored centenarians; Alabama, 256; Mississippi and Georgia, 254 each; South Carolina, 210; Virginia, 202; Louisiana's ratio is also highest (1.1400), against Mississippi's (1.1750).

We have no faith in the colored centenarians. Not one negro in a hundred over fifty knows his own age with any accuracy, and the old ones always give themselves out for much older than they really are.

Analysis of Cobra Poison.

Cobra poison has been recently tested as to its enduring action when taken from the snake and preserved. Some was kept in small bottles and then injected under the skin of various animals with fatal effects. It was also chemically analyzed and gave as the result:—Carbon, 46; nitrogen, 13; oxygen, 6; sulphur, 25; the rest of hydrogen. This, as M. Dumas remarks, is exactly the composition of beer-yeast, and supports the idea that the cobra poison is of the nature of an animal ferment.

Distribution of Consumption.

The volume of "Vital Statistics of the Census" is provided with colored charts, four of which serve to indicate to the eye the distribution of disease in the United States. Thus, the blue chart denotes the ratio of deaths by consumption, the darker tints assuming a wedge shape, roughly defined by lines drawn from Chattanooga, on the one hand through Richmond, and on the other through St. Louis. Most in the shadow of this dreadful disease are the New England coast, all of New Hampshire, and Northern Vermont. Malarial diseases (yellow chart) haunt the Atlantic and Gulf coast, from Delaware Bay to Texas, while New England and the larger Middle States, with the two Virginias, are comparatively free from them. California, which, in the central portion, is tolerable consumptive, is universally malarial, but in a light degree.

Treatment of Disease of the Bladder by the Injection of Urine.

Dr. CLEMENS, of Frankfort, uses healthy urine, containing the normal amount of uric acid, as an injection into the bladder in cases of catarrh. The organ should be first cleaned from any fœtid urine and washed out by the injection of tepid water; a healthy young subject is then got to pass urine into the syringe, which has been previously warmed, and then it is injected into the diseased bladder. The best results are obtained where the urine of healthy boys and of adults is used on alternate occasions. In one instance a single injection of healthy urine sufficed to allay a spasm, and in others the injection used twice or three times a day produced a most beneficial result.

Ancient Nomenclature.

We have seen an extract from a curious Bill of Mortality for London 150 years ago:—"Of 761 burials, 308 died from convulsions; 4 of headmouldshot; 2 of livergrown; 1 of purples; 2 of rising the lights; and 2 are entered as chrismos, meaning unbaptized infants."

Is Hard Water Wholesome?

Dr. Letheby, after devoting many years to an investigation into the properties of the water introduced into English cities, and to a study of the sanitary reports on the subject, comes to the conclusion that moderately hard water is safer and more healthful than soft water. Hard water is not only clearer, colder, more free from air, and consequently more agreeable to the eye and to the taste than soft water, but is less likely to absorb organic substances, to sustain the life of zymotic organisms, or to exert solvent properties upon salts of iron or upon leaden conducting pipes. The lime salts exert a beneficial influence upon the animal economy, and even protect the system from dangerous outward influences. Dr. Wilson, of Edinburgh, has also collected much valuable material on the subject, and comes to the same conclusions as Dr. Letheby. He

takes the ground that the human body requires for its nourishment and support a supply of certain mineral salts, among which carbonate and phosphate of lime play an important part in building up the compactness of the bones and in other functions.

Sulphate of Zinc in Epilepsy.

At a Medical Society in England, lately, Dr. Oxley related a case of the successful treatment of epilepsy by sulphate of zinc, where bromide of potassium had failed. The girl, aged 10, in good health, had three or four fits in a day. Bromide of potassium, in ten and afterwards twenty-grain doses, three times a day, had no effect. Sulphate of zinc, in doses of three grains three times a day, was given. She had one slight fit, after which she was free from them for several days, when the fits returned. The medicine was renewed, and the fits entirely left her. Dr. Oxley had never before seen sulphate of zinc of any service in epilepsy, but bromide of potassium had proved very beneficial.

A Hair Dye.

A new hair dye, without noxious properties, is suggested by Dr. Hogan in *Pharm. Central Halle:*—

Subnitrate bismuth 10 parts, and glycerine 150 parts, are mixed in a glass vessel and heated in a water bath; solution of potassa is then added in small quantities, and with continued agitation, until a clear solution has been obtained, to which a concentrated solution of citric acid is added, until merely a slight alkaline reaction is observed. Enough orange flower water is added to make the whole weigh 300 parts; the addition of a small quantity of solution of an orange-color completes the preparation.

Wanted—Reports, Catalogues, etc.

In the final revision of the pages of the MEDICAL REGISTER AND DIRECTORY OF THE UNITED STATES we want the latest published reports of *every Medical Society* in every State and Territory, and catalogues of members. Members of county and other Societies that do not publish their reports will confer a favor and serve the cause of medical progress by furnishing us with lists of their members *as soon as possible.*

Deans of medical colleges, and those connected with any of our public medical institutions, are also requested to send catalogues, announcements and reports *immediately.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Characteristics of Medical Men.

EDS. MED. AND SURG. REPORTER:—

The perusal of your article respecting the benevolence and duty of physicians leads me to offer a few remarks for consideration.

While one of the functions of a physician is benevolence, I do not consider it, as physicians often assert, a leading one; neither do I believe the business feature merely incidental; especially while their acts demonstrate adversely; physicians by nature are no more benevolent than others; and their sanitary qualities are mere products of their peculiar professional business, which forces them to examine into, and to attempt to avoid, as well as remove causes of disease, the primary object being to obtain a livelihood. As a rule, the first object of man is to continue his existence under conditions conducive to self-happiness, which is an irresistible demand of nature; thus self-happiness becomes the motive power of human action; were humanity otherwise constituted, how could their existence be continued to the common age of man; as experience teaches us that our happiness is increased or diminished in proportion as we make others happy or unhappy, benevolence must be the consequence in proportion to the sphere of educated selfishness. Were benevolence the ruling function, physicians would not so generally strive to amass fortunes, which is usually accomplished by acts antagonistic to those of benevolence; neither would they prescribe so much alcoholic drinks, the direful effects of which were far from being overrated by you, as I consider it the direct or indirect cause of all kinds of corruption and suffering among the human race, and even much suffering among the lower grade of the animal kingdom. Your position in regard to a true physician may be correct, but here the question arises, what portion are true and capable? and can they be true unless capable? I conclude that about one in fifty are quite capable of practicing the healing art; also that the proportion will *decrease* in proportion to the *increased* competition for manufacturing them. As this conclusion may have arisen from my own incapacity, I leave it for superiority to decide. My views respecting the anxiety of physicians generally in regard to the free use of alcoholic drinks, so cursed in their effects, may be summed up by repeating my statement some years since in a temperance address, viz: that I believed there were more in proportion in our profession who might *properly* be termed drunkards than outside the profession; and, that according to the admitted preserving power of alcohol, I feared a large portion of our brethren would hardly be able to turn to dust; I would that these conclusions were not applicable to the present period.

D. L. D. SHELDON, M.D.

New York City, April 23d, 1873.

Jesser's Operation on the Mastoid Process.

EDS. MED. AND SURG. REPORTER:—

Every one has a certain pride in performing a new operation, or repeating a hazardous one which has been accomplished in Europe. This latter is the condition of your constant correspondent. In November, 1861, I performed on a girl of eight years the operation of perforating with a hollow steel button probe the outer surface of the mastoid process, so as to relieve a severe disease of that region; the case was published in your journal in February, 1862, and republished in various journals in Europe, and I received from the authors of works published on Otology due credit for it. Now at this late day a gentleman of New York* undertakes to say that, "The cases of Jesser, Von Troellsch, and Turnbull are omitted from his Statistical List, simply because he finds no evidence in the printed reports of these cases that any operation was performed upon the bone, beyond the mere introduction of a buttoned probe into a small fistulous opening." Now as "Jesser" is long dead, his operation being the second, and performed in 1776, I will simply state from my work on the ear the record of his operation, and leave my readers to judge for themselves whether he deserved to be omitted, premising that there are cases of "perforation of the mastoid process" to relieve pent-up matter in them.

"Jesser's patient was a soldier, who had for several years suffered from pain in the ear, with suppuration and deafness. A slight prominence having been formed behind the ear, Jesser made an incision one inch long, after which very little pus came away, and it was only when he had penetrated with the *probe* into the cells of the mastoid process that much pus was evacuated. The pain in the ear then ceased at once, and never returned, and the hearing was also improved. The mastoid process on the other side was also pierced in this patient, with a trocar, for deafness, not for pain, and the hearing improved. The operation was then called 'Jesser's operation.'"

In the writer's case the following is the record. November, 1861:—"During this month visited the case every few days. The opening being disposed to close, which I had made with my knife, I introduced a sharp, hollow steel probe, so as to perforate the surface of the bone (not enlarge the fistulous opening), and applied freely the solid nitrate of silver." It was not until a month after (December 19th) that a large piece of bone mastoid cells was found to be movable and by enlarging the fistulous opening was removed.

When the bone was first broken down there was no fistulous opening, but being a young person the bone was much softer than in an adult. Now in going over Dr. Buck's list, we find that in thirteen cases the external appearance of the bone was "not stated," in one it was "roughened," in another there was pus on the outer side of the bone; in No. 25 there was a small sinus, also in Dr. Roosa's case. Why did he not omit them? The instruments employed were a trocar, some kind of borer, a gouge, another not stated, a drill, trephine, cartilage knife, and semi-circular saw, so that so far as instruments were used they were very diversified. So that I cannot help concluding that he omitted these cases very unjustly.

The matter of the operation is of no consequence now, as it is well recognized and performed every few months in all parts of the United States, but the importance attaches to the date of the first successful case performed in this country.

Yours Respectfully,

LAURENCE TURNBULL, M.D.
Aural Surgeon, Howard Hospital, Phila.

*A. H. Buck, M.D., Archives of Ophthalmology and Otology, Vol. III, No. 1, 1873.

Poisoning by Stramonium Seed.

EDS. MED. AND SURG. REPORTER:—

During the Fall of 1870 I was called to a boy of four years of age, living on Church street (Bridesburg), in this city, who had eaten a considerable amount of stramonium seed about two hours previous to my arrival at his bedside. I found his face flushed; his pulse very rapid and feeble, numbering at least one hundred and fifty beats per minute; respiration was hurried and difficult; the pupils were widely dilated, and the brain profoundly impressed. I found him raving furiously; screaming, tossing his hands, and striking at whoever approached him. His thirst was urgent, and he complained of burning pain in his throat. I administered an emetic of sulphate of zinc, which, aided by a feather to his fauces, induced free vomiting. I then prescribed five grains of hydrate of chloral to be repeated every half hour until quiet should be secured. Shortly after taking the third dose he slept, and awoke in six or eight hours afterwards, free from the effect of the stramonium seed.

The stramonium seed ejected from his stomach, after being carefully dried, weighed fifty-three grains.

I am not aware that chloral has been administered in any other similar case. I have had no opportunity to repeat the remedy, but I infer from my experience in this one that the action of chloral is antagonistic to stramonium, and regard the agent as worthy of further trial.

CHAS. G. POLK, M. D.
Philadelphia, Pa.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York—Proposed Endowments and Improvements.

The Alumni Association of the College o Physicians and Surgeons held a meeting April 29th, at the College, the President, Dr

Cornelius R. Agnew, in the chair. The business of the evening was the submission of a report from a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Cornelius R. Agnew, George A. Peters, and Albert H. Buck, appointed on the 26th of February last, for the purpose of conferring with the Faculty of the College with a view of extending its usefulness, to meet the advances in medical science. The committee submitted as their report an address to the graduates, of which the following is the most interesting portion. The address and the report of the committee were adopted:—

"GENTLEMEN:—Your committee, intrusted with the duty of ascertaining the best and most feasible method of extending the field of usefulness of their Alma Mater, do unanimously recommend the raising of a sum of money, not less than $100,000 in amount, to be devoted to the following distinctive purposes:—

"The endowment of a chair of pathological anatomy, to be called the Alumni Professorship of Pathological Anatomy; the establishment of separate laboratories, where students may learn chemistry, physiology, and pathological anatomy experimentally, and where original researches may be carried on under the guidance of competent instructors; and the erection of one or two small recitation or lecture rooms, each capable of seating about thirty persons.

"Your committee believe that there is no more certain way of advancing the standard of medical education than by furnishing the most ample facilities for the prosecution of studies and investigations in the purely scientific departments of medicine. They believe that such changes as are proposed are most urgently needed by the college. They will enable her to retain within her walls many of her graduates, and also to attract those of other schools who are now compelled to visit Europe for facilities of this kind, and she will thereby maintain her present and well-earned prestige among the medical schools of the country. Your committee also desire to draw your attention to the fact that other colleges, appreciating the advantage to be derived from the introduction of these important features in medical training, are actively engaged in raising funds for a similar purpose, and have in certain instances met with a most gratifying response. Their appeal to the graduates and to the business men of the community has been answered by such generous contributions that the success of their enterprise is now fully assured. Your committee are confident that our own efforts will be similarly rewarded, if every Alumnus will prove loyal to the best interests of his Alma Mater, and contribute to the full extent of his ability.

"In determining how the funds shall be spent, your committee have been unanimous in naming the above objects. They take an especial pleasure in urging the claims of an endowed chair of Pathological Anatomy, and would remind the graduates of the world-wide celebrity of such men as Rokitansky and Virchow, and of the reputation which their respective schools have, in a great measure, received through them. As the expenditure of time and labor necessary in this especial branch of medicine is so great as to seriously interfere, or to be entirely incompatible with ordinary private practice, your committee deem it advisable to urge a sufficiently large endowment for this chair. It is scarcely necessary to add that a well-equipped laboratory should be placed at the disposal of the Professor of Pathological Anatomy. Physiological and chemical laboratories should also be attached to their respective chairs.

"CORNELIUS R. AGNEW,
GEORGE A. PETERS,
ALBERT H. BUCK."

After adopting a constitution and by-laws, and a draft of a certificate of incorporation for the organization, the meeting adjourned.

Medical Declaration Concerning Alcohol.

In view of the alarming prevalence and ill effects of intemperance, with which none are so familiar as members of the medical profession, and which have called forth from eminent English physicians the voice of warning to the people of Great Britain concerning the use of alcoholic beverages, we, the undersigned members of the medical profession of New York and vicinity unite in the declaration that we believe alcohol should be classed with other powerful drugs; that when prescribed medicinally it should be with conscientious caution and a sense of grave responsibility.

We are of the opinion that the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage is productive of a large amount of physical disease; that it entails diseased appetites upon offspring, and that it is the cause of a large percentage of the crime and pauperism of our cities and country.

We would welcome any judicious and effective legislation — State and national — which should seek to confine the traffic in alcohol to the legitimate purposes *of* medical and other sciences, art, and mechanism:—

Edward Delafield, M. D., President College of Physicians and Surgeons, and of Roosevelt Hospital.

Willard Parker, M. D., ex-President Academy of Medicine.

A. Clark, M. D., Professor College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Senior Physician Bellevue Hospital.

James Anderson, M. D., No. 36 University place, ex-President Academy of Medicine, and President Physicians' Mutual Aid Association.

E. R. Peaslee, M. D., ex-President Academy of Medicine, N. Y.

C. R. Agnew, M. D., ex-President Medical Society of the State of New York.

Stephen Smith, M. D., Surgeon Bellevue Hospital, Commissioner of Health, and President American Health Association.

Alfred C. Post, M. D., LL.D., Professor of Surgery in University Medical College, and ex-President New York Academy of Medicine.

Elisha Harris, M. D., Secretary American Public Health Association, late Sanitary Superintendent of the Metropolitan Board of Health, and Corresponding Secretary Prison Association of New York, and others.

A Shrewd Thought.

The fear of contagion, so developed in many persons, has often been made a means of diverting them from their purposes. In LARDNER'S *Cyclopedia* the following anecdote is related:—

"The circumstance that Sir Robert Cecil carried on a correspondence with James VI, of Scotland, is stated by Sir Walter Scott to have been a 'secret that was, however, carefully kept, although at one moment upon the verge of transpiring,' under the following circumstances:—'Queen Elizabeth was taking the air in a carriage where Cecil occupied a seat, when one of the Royal posts passed them.' 'From whence?' the Queen demanded, and the answer was, 'From Scotland.' 'Give me your packet,' said the Queen. It was delivered accordingly. 'Open it,' said she to Cecil, 'and show me the contents.' As the packet contained some part of Cecil's correspondence with the King of Scots, this command placed the crafty statesman within view of ruin and the scaffold. To have attempted to suppress or subtract any of the papers which the packet contained would have been a hazardous experiment, in the presence of the most sharp-sighted and jealous of sovereigns. Cecil's presence of mind found an expedient. 'This packet,' said he, as he pulled his knife out to cut the strings with which it was secured, '*has an uncommon odor, and must have been in some filthy budgets.*' The Queen was alarmed; she had been all her life delicate in the sense of smelling, and was apprehensive of *poison, which she believed could be communicated by that organ.* 'Take it,' said she to Cecil, 'and let it be aired before the contents are presented to us.' The wily secretary obeyed her commands, and obtained the desired opportunity to withdraw such papers as he deemed it important to conceal."

American Public Health Association.

The "American Public Health Association" met at Cincinnati May 1st. Dr. Stephen Smith, of New York, presided, and delivered the opening address. Drs. Elisha Harris and E. H. Jaynes were chosen secretaries.

Mineral Springs.

The *Freeman* says nearly every man in Waukesha, Wis., has now a private medicinal spring on which he proposes to make untold fortunes.

Sale of Burning Oils.

The sale of burning oils in Pennsylvania is hereafter to be regulated by the new law passed at the last session of the Legislature, which went into effect May 1st. It forbids the sale of any product of petroleum to be used in lamps as a burning oil which is of a lower fire-test than 110° Fahrenheit. Violations of the law are punishable by a fine of not less than $250, or imprisonment not less than one year, or both, at the discretion of the Court. Any one sustaining damage to person or property by reason of the use of oil which is not of the legal standard, can collect damages of the dealer who sold the oil.

Counter-Prescribing.

The following is one of a class of incidents more frequent than persons generally believe:—"Nicholas Matz, a German, died at Terryville from the effects of carelessly compounded medicine. He went to a drug store and asked for some cough mixture, which the clerk prepared 'by guess.' Aconite was one of the ingredients. The fellow probably took an overdose, but the coroner's jury censured the druggist's clerk!"

Ancient Medical Art.

In Egypt mummies have been found with teeth filled with gold, and in Quito a skeleton has been discovered with false teeth secured to the cheekbone by a gold wire. In the museum at Naples, among some of the surgical instruments discovered at Pompeii, there is a *fac simile* of Sims' speculum. In the ruins of Nineveh, Layard found several magnifying glasses.

The Skopzi.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that fresh legal proceedings have been commenced in Russia against the extraordinary and unnatural sect of Skopzi, who, notwithstanding all that is done to suppress them, continue to increase in numbers. The complete removal of the penis and scrotum forms the baptismal rite of this abominable sect.

—Madame Bies has lately passed the examination and received the diploma of M. D. of the Faculty of Paris, the Secretary of the Faculty appending to her diploma a most flattering note descriptive of her devotion, ability, and services during two years in ambulances and hospitals.

—A "charm doctor" died lately in Buffalo, and a horseshoe, a stuffed frog, a filbert nut and an English shilling, all folded together in cotton cloth, were found suspended about his neck. He was honest enough to believe in his own medicines at any rate!

—Lidia Rodelrena, a wealthy Russian lady, has just presented to the St. Petersburg Academy of Medicine $40,000, to endow a department for the medical instruction of women.

American Medical Association.

We hope in our next issue to place before our readers a resumé of the doings of this body at its late session.

The usual *pamphlet* minutes will be issued by the Permanent Secretary at an early day. Price 50 cts. Address him, 1400 Pine street, Philadelphia.

—Dr. J. C. Hutchison was appointed one of the Health Commissioners of Brooklyn, recently, by the Appointing Board, consisting of the Mayor, Controller, and Auditor. The new Board of Health will, therefore, consist of Drs. Hutchison, Conkling, and the President of the Police Commissioners, ex-officio.

—Dr. Increase A. Lapham, of Milwaukee, has been appointed Chief Geologist of Wisconsin. He is to have four assistants, appointed by the Governor on his recommendation. The work of the survey is to commence in June, and be completed in four years.

—A new depilatory mixture is recommended by Prof. Bœttger, consisting of one part of crystallized sulphydrate of sodium and three parts of prepared chalk. Mixed with water, and applied to the skin, it effects the easy removal of hair.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

Dropsy.

Dr. J. M. H., of Ohio.—We could not offer a suggestion intelligently in your case, as the causes are not clear to us. In dropsical cases, either the heart, liver, or kidneys, are the organs to look to.

Ruptured Hymen.

Is there any means by which a physician, upon the examination of a ruptured hymen, may be able to say, under oath, whether the rupture has been recent or otherwise? Take the case of a young girl, thirteen or fourteen years old, the hymen being somewhat dense, and the examination made within three or four hours after the alleged violence.—*W. H. R., M.D.*

Reply.—Tardieu's *Attentats aux Moeurs* has a study of this subject. It requires the greatest caution in giving testimony, though under certain circumstances direct evidence is possible.

OBITUARY.

DR. R. H. CUMMINS.

At the residence of his mother, near Bellaire, Ohio, at four o'clock on Saturday morning, 2d inst., Dr. Robert Hazlett Cummins, of Wheeling.

Dr. Cummins was born at Washington, Pa., Feb. 17th, 1817. He received his collegiate education at Washington College, Pa. He read medicine under the direction of the late Dr. Clemens, of Wheeling, and in the Spring of 1841 he graduated in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia. Very soon afterward he formed a partnership with Dr. Clemens, and entered upon the practice of his profession. In that practice in Wheeling he has continued without interruption down to the time of his last illness.

The sickness of which he died was a clearly defined case of pleuro-pneumonia. He was taken with it on the 4th inst., while on a visit to Bellaire. From the first it was so severe that it was impracticable to bring him home.

MARRIAGES.

Bushnell—Welch.—In Brattleboro, Vermont, April 21st, by Rev. M. H. Harris, Homer Bushnell, M. D., and Eudora E. Welch, both of Pownal, Vt.

Bell—Stowell.—At the American Legation (?), April 16th, by the Rev. O. B. Keith, Dr. James Dias Bell, of Boston, and Miss Cara L. Stowell, youngest daughter of W. H. Stowell, Esq., of San Francisco, Cal.

Crabbe—Leeds.—April 23d, at Absecom, N. J., by the Rev. C. T. McMullin, Dr. Henry Crabbe and Mary L. Leeds.

Davis—Bennett.—In New York City, on the 6th inst., by Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., D.D., at the residence of the bride's parents, Francis Alvorde Davis, M.D., and Sarah Elizabeth, only daughter of James O. Bennett, Esq., both of New York City.

McKay—Elliott.—On the 30th of April, by the Rev. Henry A. Boardman, D.D., at the residence of Mrs. R. S. R. Connell, Fusculum, Wilmington, Delaware, Dr. Read J. McKay and Mary S., daughter of the late Hugh Elliott, of this city.

Murray—Murphy.—April 24th, '73, at the bride's residence, by the Rev. Father Helheck, of Anna, Ill., Thomas A. Murray, third son of Dr. T. Murray, and Miss Mary Murphy, oldest daughter of Patrick Murphy.

Ridge—Evans.—May 1st, 1873, by Rev. William M. Dairymple, assisted by Rev. T. E. Church, at the residence of the bride's parents, Dr. M. E. Ridge, of Attleboro, Bucks county, and Miss Sallie M. Evans, eldest daughter of W. Kinsey Evans, of Bristol, Pa.

Robertson—Markoe.—In New York City, Tuesday, April 29th, by Rev. John Hall, D.D., Robert Henderson Robertson and Charlotte How, eldest daughter of Thomas M. Markoe, M.D., all of New York.

DEATHS.

Blanchard.—In Neponset, Illinois, March 29th, Dr. E. S. Blanchard.

Chamberlain.—May 4th, at Cheshire, Connecticut, Julia, wife of M. Chamberlain, M D., and only daughter of Dr. J. T. Denison, of Fairfield, aged 42 years.

Connell.—In Salineville, Ohio, March 31st, 1873, Mrs. Sarah McClellan, wife of Dr. A. Connell.

Foster.—At Nassau, N. P., April 18th, 1873, Dr. S. Conant Foster, of New York City, in the 56th year of his age.

Ide.—In New York, April 15th, at the residence of his nephew, Hon. S. S. Cox, Dr. W. E. Ide, formerly of Columbus, Ohio.

Irwin.—[Father and two daughters.] In Monroe, Iowa, October 20th, 1872, Callie C. Irwin, of Stewartsville, Pa., in the 18th year of her age. At the same place, December 27th, Hettie L. Irwin, in the 10th year of her age. At the same place, December 31st, Dr. Wm. F. Irwin, in the 57th year of his age.

Kilduffe.—Suddenly, on the 6th inst., Mrs. Ann C. Kilduffe, widow of the late Dr. Robert Kilduffe.

Schoales.—In this city, on the 1st inst., Susan, wife of Dr. Marcus Schoales, aged 62 years.